

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:



STATINTL

FROM:

RICHARD C. TUFARO *RT*

SUBJECT:

DATA INDEX SYSTEM

Since I have assumed more direct responsibility for follow up of the data index requirement of the National Security Council Directive, Dave Young asked me to respond to your memorandum of 13 December 1972.

Of the 34 Departments affected by the data index requirement, about 20 submitted comments suggesting specific improvements in the draft instructions. Of course, all Departments had met and consulted on these matters since early September. The draft instructions were prepared at their request and with cognizance of their needs. In some cases the comments were complimentary regarding the draft. In each case, suggestions were made from the viewpoint of the Department concerned.

With respect to your specific comments on the effect of the draft instructions on the CIA, the selected categories of classified documents "appropriate for preservation" which are intended to be included in the data index relate directly to standards imposed by the National Archives and Records Service for determining which records have permanent retention value. The attempt to spell out this requirement in paragraph 6 of the draft instructions was based on the advice and assistance of the National Archives. In the case of the CIA, finished intelligence was accepted as a starting point.

You also suggest that some of the items of information required by paragraph 7 can be obtained from the operation of the Aegis system in conjunction with other agency procedures. I understand all of the required data elements can be obtained from Aegis without reference to the document except classifier. Because of the importance of individual accountability under the new Executive Order, it is considered essential to include classifier as an index entry. Moreover, it is re-

quired by Section VII. It is suggested that the CIA can meet this requirement by reflecting in the index the classifier's identifying code now carried on each document classified by the CIA.

It should be noted that paragraph 12 was included merely to indicate that additional reports requirements could not be spelled out at this time, but that such reports were contemplated and would be useful in monitoring the classification program. Of course, such reports would only be levied after studying feasibility, cost and benefits,

The lesson of the entire classification program and particularly a requirement like Section VII of the NSC Directive is that Departments require specific instructions on the intention and scope of the system. It is not possible to put this off until a future date because the time for proceeding is upon us.